



MEDIA CONTACTS:

Janette Baxter, Mintz + Hoke
860-679-9846
janetteb@mintz-hoke.com

Heather Gillette, Mintz + Hoke
860-679-9876
heatherg@mintz-hoke.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Power of Change Award Honors Connecticut's State and Municipal Energy Efficiency Leaders

Bristol, Cheshire, Glastonbury, Milford, Stamford, UConn, ECSU, CT Department of Corrections, CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and CT Department of Motor Vehicles Earn First Honors

HARTFORD, CT – June 17, 2014 – In its second year, the Power of Change Awards celebrated the energy efficiency achievements by more than 20 Connecticut state agencies and municipalities. During an event today at the State Capitol, the winners received awards for their innovative initiatives and approaches to reducing energy spending and protecting the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, efforts which benefit all Connecticut residents.

Rob Klee, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, addressed the gathering of more than 100 participants with a message that reinforced the importance of energy efficiency, both as a cost saving measure, but also as a key way to reduce carbon emissions. He noted, "The cheapest and cleanest energy is the energy you don't use." The event also featured recognition of the award winners by state legislative leaders and members of the Power of Change Award committee.

This year, the Power of Change Awards added new categories to recognize individuals, state agencies and municipalities, not only for specific energy efficiency projects, but also for leadership and innovation that are making a sustainable and systemic difference in the state's approach to reducing energy use. State facility managers, town leaders, boards of education and stakeholders entered energy efficiency projects in five award categories: Top Building, Innovation, Difference Maker, Performance Contracting and Breaking Ground.

2014 POWER OF CHANGE AWARD WINNERS

State Power of Change Award Recipients

Power of Change Top Building Award

First Honors: Southern Connecticut State University

Honorable Mention: Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles (Norwich)

Power of Change Innovation Award

First Honors: University of Connecticut

Power of Change Difference Maker Leadership Award

First Honors: Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University

Honorable Mention: Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Power of Change Performance Contracting

First Honors: Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

First Honors: Connecticut Department of Corrections

First Honors: Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles

First Honors: City of Bristol

Power of Change Leadership Award

Alex Kragie, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Lynn Stoddard, Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University

Power of Change Breaking Ground Award

Joseph Cassidy, Connecticut Department of Administrative Services

Paul Greco, Connecticut Department of Administrative Services

Carol Wilson, Connecticut Department of Administrative Services

José Salinas, Office of the Attorney General

Municipal Power of Change Awards**Power of Change Top Building Award**

First Honors: Milford Public Schools

Honorable Mention: Darien Public Schools

Honorable Mention: Weston Public Schools

Power of Change Innovation Award

First Honors: Stamford Board of Education

Honorable Mention: Woodstock CT Green Team

Power of Change Difference Maker Leadership Award

First Honors: Frank Biancur, Cheshire Public Schools

First Honors: Richard Johnson, Town of Glastonbury

Honorable Mention: Catherine Diviney, Town of West Hartford

Honorable Mention: Wallingford Energy Conservation Commission

The sponsors of the Power of Change Award (the Common Sense Fund, Hampshire Foundation and the Emily Hall Tremain Foundation) brought together a panel of energy and environment experts from government, business, academia and advocacy organizations to judge the 2014 entries. The judges included John Rathgeber, President of CT Business and Industry Association (CBIA); Jessica Boehland, Kresge Foundation; and Bryan Garcia of CEFIA, Connecticut's green bank.

In her remarks, the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation President, Michelle Knapik noted, “As these award winners have shown, investments in energy efficiency, energy infrastructure, best practices and behavior provide immediate, multiple and long-term benefits. These town and state leaders are demonstrating what is possible to achieve in the built environment, and they are setting an example for public leaders nationwide. Their efforts put Connecticut on the leading edge of transforming our relationship with energy – this is a path toward a brighter, cleaner energy future.”

For 2014, the Power of Change Awards also recognized leaders who used cost savings from reduced energy consumption to repay the cost of installing energy conservation measures. This innovative financing solution of “performance contracting” is part of the State’s [Lead by Example](#) initiative, which is available to state and municipal agencies.

About Power of Change Award

The Power of Change Award was created to honor the best achievements and innovations in energy efficiency across Connecticut's state and municipal buildings. The award is sponsored by three Connecticut-based foundations – the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, Hampshire Foundation and the Common Sense Fund. More information is available by visiting www.powerofchangeaward.org.

About the Foundations

The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, a New Haven-based family foundation, seeks to promote innovative solutions to basic and enduring problems in the United States through grant making programs in contemporary arts, environment and learning disabilities. For more information, visit www.tremainefoundation.org.

The Hampshire Foundation, a Hartford-based family foundation, supports initiatives that facilitate sustainable environmental practices and the smart use of energy. It deploys its resources in the form of grants, loans and impact investments. For more information, visit www.hampshirefoundation.org.

The Common Sense Fund promotes action both on the environment and in the arts that is practical, creative and addresses social needs. For more information, visit www.common sensefund.org.

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